



PRESS RELEASE

06-200

Today's Date: Friday, June 30, 2006
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PEDESTRIAN ACTUATED SIGNAL ON STATE ROUTE 83 IN ONTARIO COMPLETED

Ontario - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is announcing the completion of the pedestrian actuated signal on State Route 83 at Princeton Street in the City of Ontario. A brief ceremony will be held on Friday, June 30, 2006 at 9:00 am in front of the Gardiner W. Spring Auditorium to recognize the importance of this pedestrian safety improvement. Caltrans District Director Michael Perovich will be joined by State Senator Nell Soto, County Supervisor Gary Ovitt, and Ontario City Mayor Paul Leon to share their comments and role in helping make this a reality. Also in attendance will be Rufino Bautista, District Director for Assemblywoman Gloria Negrete McLeod.

Caltrans, the elected officials and the community have worked together to implement a solution that will safeguard all pedestrians. "I am glad that we were able to expedite the process," states Senator Nell Soto, "because I know this project will reduce traffic accidents and help protect our children as they travel to and from school. And I encourage people everywhere to observe the rules and drive carefully near schools so as not to put children at risk."

Caltrans goal was to deliver a quick solution rather than waiting years for the ultimate design improvements. Due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic, a signal has been added to the crosswalk as an interim improvement on the south side of Princeton Street. It would provide a safer pedestrian walkway for all. Mr. Perovich stated, "This was a unique situation. By using our maintenance forces, we were able to make it happen quickly". This is not typical for Maintenance to construct road improvements, however Caltrans felt it was important for the safety of the school pedestrians.

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Besides the installation of a pedestrian actuated signal, the northerly crosswalk at Princeton was eliminated and the center median has been closed. This will improve the operational efficiency of the intersection. All vehicle traffic from Princeton Street is being routed north on State Route 83 and can turn on 5th Street to go south on Euclid. Work on this \$115,000 interim safety improvement began mid-May and was completed June 21st when the signals were activated.

State Route 83 runs through the heart of historic Ontario. This six-lane highway is separated by a grassy, tree-lined median that contains paved intersections to allow motorists the ability to merge on to the opposite side of the highway. Some of these intersections are not signalized, as was the case with the T-intersection at Princeton Street. Chaffey High School and Vina Danks Middle School are located in the vicinity of State Route 83 and Princeton Street. Many students use this intersection as their primary route to and from school.

There will continue to be a crossing guard during regular school hours at this intersection to inform students and pedestrians of the new crosswalk. Caltrans encourages all pedestrians to use signalized crosswalks whenever possible as pedestrian safety is paramount. Drivers and pedestrians must be careful as we all share a common road and a common goal of safety for everyone. Motorists are reminded to obey all traffic laws and remember that there are reduced speeds in school zones. Working together, we can make State Route 83 safer for everyone. Plans are in the process to complete the permanent improvements that will add curb and gutter for the median and landscaping that will blend with historic Route 83.

For additional information, call Caltrans Office of Public Affairs at (909) 383-4631 or visit the Web site at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8>

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